

Appln No. 09/697,483

Amdt date July 7, 2004

Reply to Office action of June 22, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 52-57, 65-71, and 73 will be pending in this application upon entry of the above amendments. Claim 52 has been amended. Claims 58-64, and 72 have been canceled. Claims 65-71 have been allowed. Allowance of all of the now pending claims are respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 58-64 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Narita et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,883,975). Applicant has canceled claims 58-64 without prejudice for pursuing in a continuation application. This rejection has therefore been obviated.

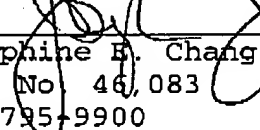
The Examiner rejected claims 52-56 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Armstrong (U.S. Patent No. 4,748,512). The Examiner, however, indicated that claims 72-73 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant has therefore included the limitations of claim 72 into independent claim 52, and canceled claim 72. Claim 73 has been amended to now depend on claim 52. Applicant therefore submits that claims 52-57 and 73 are now in condition for allowance.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests an early indication of allowance of claims 52-57, 65-71, and 73.

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If there are any remaining issues that can be addressed by telephone, Applicant invites the Examiner to contact the undersigned at the number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,
CHRISTIE, PARKER & HALE, LLP

By 
Josephine B. Chang
Reg. No. 46,083
626/795-9900

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